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"(b) As the financial position of the municipal council according to its Budget Estimate for 1953–54 was not satisfactory sanction for the payment of the contribution was refused. The question whether the matter may be reconsidered is under consideration separately in view of the improvement of the financial position of the municipal council according to its Revised Estimate for 1953–54."

Party to the Members of the Taxation Enquiry Commission.

* 1350 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the State Government gave any party to the Members of the Taxation Enquiry Commission on 30th April 1954; and

(b) if so, the expenses incurred thereon?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) An expenditure of Rs. 390-3-6 was incurred."

Number of Harijans on the staff of the Fisheries Department in Malabar.

* 1351 Q.—Sri M. CHADAYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of Harijans in the categories of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Petty Officers and Clerks in the Fisheries Department in Malabar district?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors—Nil.

Petty Yard Officers—3.

Clerks—2."

Change in the rate of discount allowed to stamp vendors in municipal towns.

* 1352 Q.—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any change was made in the rate of discount allowed to stamp vendors in the municipal towns with a population of more than 40,000 or 50,000;

(b) if so, when the change was made;

(c) the loss sustained by the Government now on account of this change; and

(d) whether the change of rate was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and if so, when?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) Yes. The rates of discount were reduced from 6 pies to 4 pies per rupee in respect of non-judicial hundi stamps and